

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1                   1.       (Currently amended) In a networked data processing system comprising  
2 one or more host servers, a switching component, and a data storage component, a storage access  
3 method comprising:  
4                   receiving a user-originated request for data storage, the request including a service  
5 policy, the service policy comprising a server sub-policy, a network sub-policy, and a storage  
6 sub-policy which is associated with one or more data storage performance criteria;  
7                   identifying a server service component based on the server sub-policy;  
8                   identifying a data store from among a pool of data stores defined in the data  
9 storage component, wherein the identifying of the data store from among the pool of data stores  
10 includes selecting a data store having performance characteristics that meet or exceed the one or  
11 more performance criteria associated with the storage sub-policy;  
12                   identifying a port on the data store by applying a rule to the one or more data  
13 storage performance criteria, wherein the rule characterizes each port of a set of at least one port  
14 on the data store with a bandwidth metric, the bandwidth metric for each port being determined  
15 from a port priority and a total bandwidth of each port;  
16                   communicating with a data storage agent to establish a data path within the data  
17 storage component for data communication between the port and the data store, the data storage  
18 agent being one of a plurality of data storage agents that manage portions of the data storage  
19 component;  
20                   based on the network sub-policy, identifying a network path for data  
21 communication between the server service component and the port, wherein the network sub-  
22 policy includes one or more network path criteria for selecting a network path from a set of one  
23 or more network paths based upon one or more network attributes; and

24                   communicating with a network agent to allocate the network path identified based  
25 upon the network sub-policy, the network agent being one of a plurality of network agents that  
26 manage portions of the network storage component.

2.       (Canceled).

1                   3.       (Currently amended) The method of claim [[2]]1 wherein the network  
2 path has a bandwidth metric that is greater than or equal to the bandwidth metric of the port.

1                   4.       (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising communicating with  
2 a host agent to allocate resources on the host server that is identified in the user-originated  
3 request, the host agent being one of a plurality of host agents that manage the one or more host  
4 servers.

1                   5.       (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the service policy is further  
2 associated with one or more security criteria, wherein the step of identifying a network path  
3 includes applying a second rule to the one or more security criteria to determine one or more  
4 security parameters, wherein the network path is identified based on the one or more security  
5 parameters.

1                   6.       (Currently amended) A storage service manager comprising a processing  
2 component and computer program code for execution by the processing component, the program  
3 code configured to operate the processing component to perform method steps of:

4                   receiving a user-originated request for data storage, the request including a service  
5 policy, the service policy comprising a server sub-policy, a network sub-policy, and a storage  
6 sub-policy which is associated with one or more data storage performance criteria;

7                   executing a rule to identify a server service component based on the server sub-  
8 policy;

9                   executing a rule to identify a suitable data store from among a pool of data stores  
10 defined in a data storage component, the rule comprising an evaluation of the one or more data  
11 storage performance criteria, including identifying a port based on the rule, wherein the rule  
12 characterizes each port of a set of at least one port on the data store with a bandwidth metric, the

bandwidth metric for each port being determined from a port priority and a total bandwidth of each port;

communicating with a data storage agent to establish a data path within the data storage component for data communication between the port and the data store, the data storage agent being one of a plurality of data storage agents that manage portions of the data storage component;

based on the network sub-policy, identifying a network path for data communication between the server service component and the port; and

communicating with a network agent to allocate the network path, the network agent being one of a plurality of network agents that manage portions of a network storage component.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended) The storage service manager of claim [[7]]6 wherein the network path is characterized by a bandwidth metric that is greater than or equal to the bandwidth metric of the port.

9. (Currently amended) In a networked data processing system comprising one or more host servers, a switching component, and a data storage component, a storage access method comprising:

receiving a user-originated request for data storage, the request including a service policy, the service policy comprising a server sub-policy, a network sub-policy which is associated with one or more security criteria, and a storage sub-policy which is associated with one or more data storage performance criteria ;

identifying a server service component based on the server sub-policy;

identifying a data store from among a pool of data stores defined in the data storage component based on a first rule comprising an evaluation of the one or more data storage performance criteria;

communicating with a data storage agent to establish a data path within the data storage component for data communication between the data store and a port on the data store,

the data storage agent being one of a plurality of data storage agents that manage portions of the data storage component, wherein the data storage agent identifies a port on the data store by applying a rule to the one or more data storage performance criteria, wherein the rule characterizes each port of a set of at least one port on the data store with a bandwidth metric, the bandwidth metric for each port being determined from a port priority and a total bandwidth of each port;

identifying a network path for data communication between the server service component and the port, based on an evaluation of the one the one or more security criteria in the network sub-policy; and

communicating with a network agent to allocate the network path, the network agent being one of a plurality of network agents that manage portions of the network storage component.

10. (Canceled) The method of claim 9 wherein the port is identified based on a bandwidth metric that is determined by evaluating the first rule.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the port is identified based on a bandwidth metric that is determined by evaluating the first rule and the network path is characterized by having a bandwidth metric that is greater than or equal to the bandwidth metric of the port.

13. (Currently Amended) In a networked data processing system comprising one or more host servers, a switching component, and a data storage component, a storage service manager comprising a processing component and computer program code for execution by the processing component, the program code configured to operate the processing component to perform method steps of:

receiving a user-originated request for data storage, the request including a service policy, the service policy comprising a server sub-policy, a network sub-policy which is associated with one or more security criteria, and a storage sub-policy which is associated with one or more data storage performance criteria;

10 identifying a server service component based on the server sub-policy;  
11 identifying a data store from among a pool of data stores defined in the data  
12 storage component based on a first rule comprising an evaluation of the one or more data storage  
13 performance criteria;  
14 communicating with a data storage agent to establish a data path within the data  
15 storage component for data communication between the data store and a port on the data store,  
16 the data storage agent being one of a plurality of data storage agents that manage portions of the  
17 data storage component, wherein the data storage agent identifies a port on the data store by  
18 applying a rule to the one or more data storage performance criteria, wherein the rule  
19 characterizes each port of a set of at least one port on the data store with a bandwidth metric, the  
20 bandwidth metric for each port being determined from a port priority and a total bandwidth of  
21 each port;  
22 identifying a network path for data communication between the server service  
23 component and the port, based on an evaluation of the one the one or more security criteria in the  
24 network sub-policy; and  
25 communicating with a network agent to allocate the network path, the network  
26 agent being one of a plurality of network agents that manage portions of the network storage  
27 component.

14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim [[14]]13 wherein  
2 the at least one security parameter includes one of a port zoning parameter and a WWN (world-  
3 wide name) zoning parameter.

1 16. (Original) The computer program of claim 13 further configured to  
2 operate the processing component to perform a method step of evaluating the first rule to  
3 produce a bandwidth metric, wherein the bandwidth metric is used to identify the port on the  
4 data store.

1 17. (Original) The computer program of claim 16 further configured to  
2 operate the processing component to perform a method step of evaluating the second rule to

3 produce at least one security parameter, wherein the network path is identified based on the at  
4 least one security parameter.

1 18. (Original) The computer program of claim 17 wherein the at least one  
2 security parameter includes one of a port zoning parameter and a WWN (world-wide name)  
3 zoning parameter.

19-23. (Canceled)

1 24. (Currently amended) In a networked data processing system comprising  
2 one or more host servers, a switching component, and a data storage component, computer  
3 program code configured to operate a processor to perform steps of:

4 receiving a user-originated request for data storage, the request comprising a  
5 service policy, the service policy being associated with one or more security criteria;

6 identifying a server service component;

7 identifying a data store from among a pool of data stores managed by the data  
8 storage component;

9 identifying a port on the data store by applying a rule to one or more data storage  
10 performance criteria, wherein the computer program code characterizes each port of a set of at  
11 least one port on the data store with a bandwidth metric, the bandwidth metric for each port  
12 being determined from a port priority and a total bandwidth of each port;

13 communicating with one or more data agents to set up the data store and the port;

14 identifying a network path between the server service component and the port;

15 and

16 communicating with one or network agents to configure the switching component  
17 to set up the network path,

18 wherein one or more of the steps of identifying include determining a security  
19 parameter from the one or more security criteria and performing the identifying step using the  
20 security parameter.

1                   25.    (Original) The computer program of claim 24 wherein the security  
2   parameter is a LUN masking parameter, wherein the data store is configured in accordance with  
3   the LUN masking parameter.

1                   26.    (Original) The computer program of claim 24 wherein the security  
2   parameter is a port zoning parameter, wherein the network path is set up in accordance with the  
3   port zoning parameter.

1                   27.    (Original) The computer program of claim 24 wherein the security  
2   parameter is a WWN zoning parameter, wherein the network path is set up in accordance with  
3   the WWN zoning parameter.